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OCI No. 0483/63

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MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: UNESCO Subsidizes Cuban Travel to Conference in Bolivia

1. The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization sponsors many regional training courses, particularly in the field of labor and education. UNESCO customarily provides the funds for such courses and pays the travel expenses of the participants. This would include the representative of the Cuban Federation of University Students invited to the training course on voluntary work camps to be held in Sucre, Bolivia from 15 March through 15 April.
2. The United States contributes 31.30 percent of UNESCO's budget, the USSR is next with 13.11 percent, followed by Britain with 7.33 percent and France with 5.35 percent. Cuba contributes 0.10 percent. UNESCO's budget ceiling for 1963-64 is set at \$39,000,000.
3. UNESCO Secretariat officials have in the past rejected United States protests that Communist representatives in these courses invariably use every opportunity to create dissension, encourage subversion, and inject political issues into these so-called apolitical meetings. UNESCO's director general, Rene Maheu of France, seems to have made a deliberate effort to appease Soviet critics and meet the demands for stronger recognition of Soviet interests. Moreover, Maheu is still resentful that the United States did not actively support him in his recent reelection as director general.
4. UNESCO's vulnerability to Communist exploitation results primarily from the nature of the agency itself and the differing views of its members regarding its functions. Whereas Western European countries seem to regard UNESCO only as a means for promoting cooperation and contact among the intelligentsia, the

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less developed countries look on the agency as a neutral source of aid and assistance and as a possible bridge between the free world and the Communist bloc.

5. The USSR has, on occasion, been able to turn the interest in UNESCO as an East-West bridge into propaganda for "peaceful coexistence." It has also benefited from the way UNESCO's unwieldy organizational structure has permitted it to be dominated by a voting majority of countries which contribute little to its financial support.

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